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a4*Claims

1. Process for electroless plating of plastics comprising the steps of:
- 5 a) compounding a granular plastic with a catalyst suitable for an electroless plating reaction,
- b) forming a shaped body from the product of step a),
- c) removal of at least part of the material from the surface of the shaped body of step b) to expose part of said catalyst,
- 10 d) treatment with an acid to activate the exposed catalyst of step c), and
- e) metal plating of the product of step d) in an electroless metal bath.
2. Process according to claim 1 in which the removal of the plastic of step c) is carried out by contacting the
- 15 shaped body with an alkaline solution.
3. Process according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein step b) is carried out by injection moulding.
4. Process according to any of the preceding claims in which the acid in step d) is a solution of a mineral and/or
- 20 an organic acid with a pH of less than 2, preferably less than 1.
5. Process according to any of the preceding claims in which said catalyst comprises phosphides, preferably ferrous phosphides, optionally mixed with silver, silver compounds,
- 25 palladium, palladium compounds, nickel or mixtures thereof.
6. Process according to any of the preceding claims in which the plastic is a liquid crystal polymer chosen from the group consisting of a polyacrylate copolymer such as [Vectra E 820 I, A 530, C 810, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene
- 30 copolymer, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene

copolymer/polycarbonate blends, polycarbonate, poly(ethylene imine), polystyrene, poly(ethylether ketone) (PEK), polyether sulfphone (PES), rubbers, nylon, poly(ethylene terephthalate), and blends thereof.

- 5 7. Process according to any of the preceding claims in which the metal to be deposited from the metal bath is selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, silver, cobalt, gold, palladium, tin, and mixtures thereof.

- 10 8. Process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein in step (a) also a filler is compounded with the plastic and catalyst.

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